

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 H-01 OMB-01
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 /053 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 09591

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EFIN ADB, OTRA
SUBJECT: VISIT BY HAC STAFF

REF: (A) STATE 135368, (B) MANILA 9383

1. AT CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION JUNE 8 AT MALACANANG SECRETARY OF FINANCE CESAR VIRATA RAISED WITH EMBOFF SUBJECT OF VISIT BY HAC STAFF TGO INSPECT ADB AND IBRD PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE STATED THAT MEXICO AND COLOMBIA HAD REFUSED SIMILAR VISITS ON GROUND THAT ONLY IBRD AND IDB STAFF COULD INSPECT BANK PROJECTS AND THAT ANOTHER MEMBER COUNTRY HAD NO RIGHT TO DO SO. THESE COUNTRIES DID NOT APPRECIATE VISITS OF A FEW DAYS' DURATION WHICH RESULT IN CRITICISM OF PROJECTS.

2. VIRATA ASKED AS TO WHOM WE HAD APPROACHED IN THE GOP. WHEN TOLD THAT USADB WAS COORDINATING VISIT WITH ADB AND NEDA, VIRATA SUGGESTED THAT WE ALSO SEE THE FOREIGN OFFICE. O EMBOFF TOLD HIM WE INTEND TO DO SO AND BELIEVED THAT THE VISIT IS EDUCATIONAL, USEFUL AND NECESSARY. EMBOFF STRESSED THAT WE COULD WORK OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND BENEFICIAL PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT.

3. COMMENT. VIRATA APPEARED IN A "FEISTY" MOOD AND IN SYMPATHY WITH THE VIEWS ASCRIBED TO MEXICO AND COLOMBIA
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WHICH HE SAID HE OBTAINED FROM THE WORLD BANK IN WASHINGTON. AS HE SUGGESTED, WE WILL SEE FOREIGN OFFICE AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN GOP COOPERATION ON VISIT. CONVERSATION WITH VIRATA PRECEDED CALL BY USADB AND EMBASSY OFFICERS ON NEDA DEPUTY DG MANUEL ALBA TO DISCUSS VISIT. DISCUSSION PROCEEDED NORMALLY, AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT ALBA WAS AWARE OF VIRATA'S TRENCANT

REMARKS. CONTENTS OF NEDA DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
M,URPHY

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Message Attributes

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